A ASSORTMENT OF SECOND HAND STEINWAY ACTAIN. Square and Upright Planes, some of them nearly new tales for sale cheap, second hand Planes and Parlor Organs of other makers. Beware of begus instruments represented as genuine Steinway Planes at auction and private sale, and advertised as a decey in these and other celumes. STEINWAY & SONS, Steinway Hall, New York.

FINE ASSORTMENT OF first class Pianofortes. HAINES BROTHERS, 124 5th av. For sale on very reasonable terms —FOR RENT, UPRIGHT, SQUARE AND GRAND, Planes of our own make; also for sale or ront, a num-of fine second hand Planes in perfect order, WM. KNABE & CO., 112 5th av., above 15th st.

STEINWAY PIANO, \$100-MAGNIFICENT 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) octave four round cornered rosewood Windsor Pianote, fully guaranteed, used six months, cost \$1.000, for O; \$100\), Cover, Cabinet; also entire Household Furnite. Call private residence 120\) west 23\(\text{ds} \).

A.—PIANOFORTE; RARE CHANCE; PRIVATE FAMally going abroad will sell elegant carved four round
Steinway Plano at a sacrifice, with all improvements, now
last May, cost \$900, for \$200 immediate cash; Stool,
Cover, Music Cabinet; Chickering Upright, \$100; reference and satisfaction given. N. B.—Box for shipping.
Call, private residence No. 72 West 19th st., between 5th
and 6th ave. -\$125-BEAUTIFUL UPRIGHT OR SQUARE PI anoforte, almost new; good Planos, \$50; open even s. GOLDSMITH'S, 26 Bleacker st., near Bowery.

A T OUVRIER & SONS', 44 WEST 14TH ST.—NEW
and second hand Upright Planos for sale on instal
sents or to rest; reasonable prices. Open evenings. Ments of to rent; reasonable prices. Open eventings.

A GREAT OFFER FOR HOLIDAYS.—SPLENDID

A Organs, S35, \$45, \$50, \$55, \$85, \$70 upward; 7 octave
Planos, \$115, \$130, \$135; 7½ do., \$140, \$150 upward; warranted; mouthly instainents received; instruments to
rent, tuned and repaired. HORACE WATERS, \$28
Broadway, corner 12th st. Open evenings.

A FINE CREMONA VIOLIN (STEINER), 200 YEARS Aold, in excellent condition; also a gouline Toedt Bow Can be seen for a few days only at R. LE FEVRE'S rusic store, 52 East 13th st. A BEAUTIFUL ROSEWOOD SEVEN OCTAVE PIANO-

BILLINGS & CO. ARE OFFERING THEIR SUPERB D'lanos during the holidays at extraordinarily low prices; Pianos to rent and on instalments from \$4 up. Organs from \$2; Mason & Hamilin double reed Organs, \$35 new Bay State Organs, \$36 50, cash, and upwards; second hand pianos at all prices. BILLINGS & CO., Pianos man-ufacturers, 21 East 14th st.

DARGAINS.—PIANOS, \$75, \$100; NEW SQUARES and uprights for ront, \$5, \$6; grand, \$7; Organs, \$60; five stops, \$45; clogant case, \$60, 13 East 14th st. DARGAINS.—DIAMONDS, 2 TO 12 CARATS, RARE gems, elegantly meunted, \$50 to \$2,500: Diamonds, Watches, Valuables bought, sold, exchanged.

J. H. BARRINGER, 35 Union square. CHICKERING GRAND SQUARE PIANO.—HAND-some Christmas prosent; private family selling, Call at 111 West 21st st.

FOR LESS THAN \$100-7 OCTAVE ROSEWOOD Fround cornered Planoforte, celebrated city maker, in-cluding Stool. 196 2d av., near 12th st. MAGNIFICENT 7% OCTAVE CHICKERING DOUBLE Mround Planoforte, \$125; also Steinway; rare bargains. GORDON'S, 111 Clinton place

PALACE ORGANS.—A FINE ASSURTMENT OF these colebrated Organs at factory prices. Steck Piano Rooms, 11 East 14th st.

O'REOND HAND PIANOS AND ORGANS, ALL MAKES, Shought, sold, taken on sale; positive bargains offered; Pausos to rens, also tuned and repaired. MAXWELL'S, SI East 13th st. rear of Wallsack's. Open evenings. THE MASON & HAMLIN ORGAN COMPANY, 46 EAST 14TH ST. (Union square), offer the largest assortment in the city of the BEST CABINET OR PARLOR ORGANS IN THE WORLD: wines of highest distinction at EVERY WORLD: Spars of highest distinction at EVERY WORLD: A spars of high every world: A s THE MATHUSHER PIANO MANUPACTURING COM-IPANY have on exhibition at their new warerooms No. 23 East 14th st., for sale or to rent, the PINEST and HANDSOMEST stock of Pianos in NEW DESIGNS and styles of cases to be found in the city. A faw Pianos slightly used very low. Instalment sales a specialty.

\$60.-FINE DUNHAM PLANOFORTE; PARLOR orley place, near Broadway. HOLIDAY PRESENTS

A.-PINE WORKBOXES AND WRITING DESKS; A.balf price of elsewhere. FORSTER'S Manufactory, 88 Maiden lane. LI. KINDS OF PANCY WRITING DESKS AT LOW-ost prices. JOHN J. REILLY, 65 Nassau st. BRASS OPEN FIREPLACES, LARGE AND ELEGANT Stock of brass Fonders, Andirons, Fire Sets, Coal Hods, Bellows, &c., of antique and modern dosigns, suitable for boliday presents, retailing at wholesale prices until January 1, 1880. J. S. CONOVER & CO. 366 and 368 Canal at HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—DIAMOND BARRINGS, \$25
\$275 to \$500; Rings, \$10 to \$500; Studs, \$6 to \$200; Crosses,
\$275 to \$550; Nockohains, \$15 to \$50; Lockets, \$3 to \$100;
gold Watches, \$15 to \$200; silvor Watches, \$5 to \$50;
Bracelots, \$10 to \$100; gold and coral Sets, \$10 to \$100;
Cameo Rings, \$6 to \$20. Lindo BROS, 1,207 Broadway. MPORTED CANARY BIRDS, BRASS CAGES, &C.

Stock of Parlor Desks. Easy Chairs, Nieighs, Robes,
Blankets, Whips, Bells, Furniture, &c.

EDWARD SCHENCK, (old stand) 58 Liberty st.

CEALED PROPOSALS.

Structure of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge at their office, 21 Water at. Brooklyn until 12 M. of Monday, January 12, 1880, for the manufacture and delivery of about 1,125,000 feet, board measure, of Southern Yellow Pine and about 270,000 feet, board measure, of Nither Oak.

Specifications may be had upon application at the office of the trustees.

W. A. ROEBLING, Chief Engineer.

STORAGE.

A TRACTIVE STORAGE, 109-119 EAST 44TH ST.,
Afor carriages, baggazag, furniture, &c. Plastered compartments, thoroughly ventilated. Expressage, packing,
moving, satisfactorily executed.

O'REILLY BROTHERS, Proprietors. THE HAEGER WAREHOUSE STH AV., PROM SID To 34th at, office 300 West 34th at. Storage for furniture, pianos, baggage and goods of every description at lowest rates; thipping, boxing and packing.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Varehouses; scrupulously clean; moders improved elevator; ("advances").

REFUSAL OF MAYOR COOPER TO SIGN THE WARRANTS FOR THEIR PAYMENT UNTIL TO-

A controversy has arisen between Mayor Cooper

and the Comptroller relative to the payment of school teachers' salaries for the present month, which may result in depriving those officials of funds for the holiday season. In this city there are about three thousand five hundred teachers on the payrolls. Each year they receive a vacation from December 24 (Christmas Eve) until the first Monday in January. The annual custom has been to pay them their December salaries on the 24th inst., so that they may be provided with money a little in advance of the usual time of payment. Yesterday the payrolls of the teachers were returned to the Comptroller's office with a communication from Mayor Cooper, in which he says that he returns the rolls without signature, as the service covered by them has not yet been fully performed. The Mayor says:—"As no service is required from school employes during the month of December after the 24th inst. I think that payrolls for that month can properly be certified on or after that date."

The Comptroller sent back the payrolls to the Board of Education yesterday afternoon, with a letter to President Wood, enclosing a copy of the Mayor's letter and rehearsing the points made by him. This letter concludes as follows:—"For the purpose of complying with the wishes of the Mayor I return the payrolls to your Board, that they may be recertified after all the service required has been performed. Of course, the delay caused by this renewed certification will prevent the payment of the salaries of the teachers until after Christmas."

If the payrolls come back to-day the Mayor of course will sign them. Previous to the above correspondence the Mayor directed that the following should be transmitted:—

Auxon's Overice, New York, Dec. 15, 1879. the payrolls. Each year they receive a vacation

ALEX. S. WERR, Esq., President College of the City of New York:— York —
Sim-The Mayor directs me to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 12th inst, and to say that he sees no
objection to countersigning the warrants for payment of
instructors and employee of the Goliege for December of
no rafter the 24th inst, but that becaunot countersign them

instructors and employes of the College for December on or affer the 24th inst, but that because countersign them better that date.

The principle is that a certificate that a service has been performed daring a certain neriod cannot be given until the last day of service in that period. As the service of college instructors and employes for the month of Decem-ber terminates on the 24th inst, a certification of a payroll made before that date would be manifestly incorrect. Yours respectfully,

SALE OR ADOPTION.

A somewhat singular habeas corpus proceeding was brought before Judge Van Vorst, in Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday. The habeas corpus ver's clerk, and were directed to Annie Brady Sheat mas W. Canton and Susan Canton, commanding him to produce in Court the body of Blanche Brady Sheat, a little child, about three years of age. It is charged by the petitioner that Annie Brady Sheat, with whom he had been living for four years previous to February last in the relation of husband, went to the house of the child's nurse on Saturday evening and, under the pretext of buying it a doil, took the calld away and left it at the house of Mr. Canton, in East Fourteenth street, by whom it is now detained. The story of Mr. Sheat is somewhat peculiar. He says that some months ago be had a quarrel with his reputed wire, who subsequently tried to induce him to dispose of the child for the purpose of adoption. Mr. Sheat persistently refused all such overtures, and, to insure the safety of the child, took it away from his house and left it with an old nurse, to whom it has become very much strached. When the matter came before the Court Mr. and Mrs. Canton appeared personally and made return by stating that they had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the child, and were astonished at the charge preferred against them. Mr. Gedney, as counsel for Mr. Sheat, at once prepared a traverse to this return, in which it was stated that the child was taken away from the nurse for the purpose of sale, and that negotiations for that object were actually pending. Upon the suggestions of counsel the further hearing was adjourned until Saturday. Sheat, a little child, about three years of age. It is

WILL THE LAW BE CHANGED?

Republican Attitude Regarding the Choice of Presidential Electors.

"RETALIATION NOT RIGHT."

Democrats Confident that a Change Would Improve Their Prospects.

The change in the law relating to the method of choosing Presidential electors which, it is said, is contemplated by the republican leaders who will control the Legislature next year, is still exciting a good deal of discussion. The publication of the alleged plans of the republicans in the matter, however, had, it is claimed, the almost immediate effect of squelching the movement, but the proposition has again assumed more definite proportions on account of the action of the democrats in Maine. In-deed, it may be said, after a very careful canvass among members of the Legislature of all shades of political opinion, that there is a widespread feeling that a measure lookng to the repeal of the present laws relating to the choosing of representatives in the Electoral College from this State will be introduced in both the Senate and Assembly. "Of course," as a very prominent republican from one of the interior ounties said to a HERALD reporter yesterday "there will be no difficulty in passing such a bill if it is made a party measure. The majority in both ses is too overwhelming to admit of any doubt on this point. I must really say that, in my opincause to inaugurate such a movement. The Maine democrate have acted in such an equivocal manner as to leave the republicans of this State perfect lib-ety of action so long as a semblance of legality is kept up. While gaining control, perhaps, of the vote of Maine, the democratic managers have vir-tually given up, without a struggle, the electoral

The attitude assumed by this gentleman, who has long occupied a position in the Legislature and was The attitude assumed by this gentleman, who has long occupied a position in the Legislature and was for two years a recognized leader, is generally the one taken by most republicans. In fact, it may be stated that in nearly every instance where there was at first a disposition to condemn the proposition there is now a strong feeling in favor of the proposed change in the law. This change in sentiment is the more noticeable because those who altered their opinions have long been identified with what is known as the "machine" element of the republican organization. The gentlemen who boast of their independence from party leader thraidom are the only ones who seem to oppose the new measure. As will be seen by the following interviews the interest in the subject is still very great:—

AN OUTRAGEOUS FOLITICAL FRAUD.

Ex-Senator James W. Gerard said:—"it would be one of the most outrageous political frauds ever perpetrated, and would recoil upon any persons trying to carry it out."

"Why do you consider it a fraud if there is a constitutional and legal right to make the change?"

"Simply because the present Legislature was elected by the people with regard to existing methods of political action and machinery, to be legislators simply and not Presidential electors, and for that body now to grasp new and unusual powers not contemplated when they were voted for would be worse than anything heretofore attempted, done or chronicled in our dirty political annals. It

that body now to graup new and unusual powers not contemplated when they were voted for would be worse than anything heretofore attempted, done or chronicled in our dirty political annals. It would be a piece of political fraud and robbery of popular rights that would surprise and alarm and tend not only to discredit republican institutions, but to take away all faith in the decent and honest administration of modern free government by any person or party."

administration of modern free government by any person or party."
Senator-elect Charles Fowler, of Uister county, said that he had not heard any intimation of an intention to change the method or choosing Presidential electors from members of the incoming Senate, and he had conversed with a good many. He had "too good an opinion" of the Senators he had met to believe that they would spring a thing of this kind at such a time. He believed they were men who thought more of the people than of party. If it had been made an issue in the last campaign it would be a different thing.

who thought more of the people than of party. If it had been made an issue in the last campaign it would be a different thing.

Colonel John R. Fellows said:—"I don't believe the Legislature will attempt anything of the kind. I think as a party measure it would be an advantageous thing for the democratic party; for, while they might succeed in securing a certain number of electoral votes if they should adopt the plan of choosing electors by Congressional districts, the feeling of indignation aroused among the people in consequence would destroy the republican party in this State as an organization for some time to come, at least. A curious feature of this contemplated plan is that no republican who advocates it has as yet put his advocacy of it on the grounds of right, justice or even necessity, but solely as a retaliatory measure because the democratic party, they say, has perpetrated a wrong in Maine. But whether the republican party perpetrates a fraud in Louisians or the democratic party in Maine I don't believe the people of New York State will submit to partisan or unfair measures merely in retaliation for wrongs committed in other States."

"THE PROPLE WILL RISE IN THEIR MIGHT."

Justice Timothy Campbell said:—"I don't believe

committed in other States."

"THE PROPLE WILL HISE IN THEIR MIGHT."

Justice Timothy Campbell said:—"I don't believe the republicans will attempt it, although they have the power. If they do the people will rise in their might. The scheme savors too much of imperialism, and that the people of New York State will not stand. If the plan of choosing electors is changed it will have the effect of making two-thirds of the Congressional districts go democratic as a rebuke to the attempt to subvert the liberties of the people."

Commissioner Jacob Hoss had not heard the proposition canvassed among the local republican leaders at all, and did not think the time was ripe for a change.

leaders at all, and did not think the time was ripe for a change.

Ex-Assemblyman Elbert Floyd-Jones did not think the republicans would dare attempt to carry out the scheme, although if they got in a tight place they dare do anything.

Ex-Congressman John R. Meade, said:—"I don't believe the republicans contemplate anything of the sort. Their leaders have not been remarkable for doing foolish things during the past few years, and the time is not opportune for them to begin now. If some such absurd thing were to be done I should expect that some other party I might name, but will not, would be its author. Further comment is unnecessary."

If some such absurd thing were to be done I should expect that some other party I might name, but will not, would be its author. Further comment is unnecessary."

DEMOCRATIC VIEWS.

Ex-Judge Nelson J. Waterbury, ex-Senator John Fox and ex-Senator Hugh H. Moore, all of them prominent democrats, are of opinion that if the republicans carry out their plan to alter or amend the present law the democratic party will be the gainer in the end. The people, in the opinion of these gentlemen, would not stand by tamely and see such a course pursued without showing what they though to those who were at the bottom of it.

Ex-Alderman Barney Biglin, the republican district leader, said to a HERALD reporter that he thought it was premature to talk or the subject at present. The matter was not one, any way, that was a fit subject for discussion by practical politicians, and he therefore preferred to say nothing at all about the proposition. Mr. Henry C. Perley, also a prominent republican, coincided with Mr. Biglin that it was yet too early to say what would be done by the Legislature in reference to changing the method of choosing Presidential electors.

Senator Pierce, of Kings, said that he had been so occupied that he had not been able to consider the subject in all its bearings. He thought, however, that aside from the great wrong it would inflict upon the people of the State if the scheme were consummated the republican leaders were too shrewid to adopt any measures which would endanger the future hopes or existence of their organization. The discussion was a little premature, he thought, but as the republicans had the power, and if they did change the method of choosing electors they would violate no legal or constitutional right, it was at present simply a question of policy to decide whether they would use their power to accomplish that end or not.

Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senate, was found at his rooms in the Metropolitan Hotel in company with Senator Forste

should fail the executors are authorized to set saide \$25,000 for the above purpose. All the rest and residue of his estate he gives to his next of kin. Dr. Gould names as his executors Dr. Cornelius W. Agnew and Latimer Bailey, and tells them that they will find memoranda of his property deposited with Drexel, Morgan & Co. and the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company.

THE COURTS.

SUMMARY OF LAW CASES. Notes of issue for the permanent admiralty calendar of the United States District Court for the year

1880 must be filed in the Clerk's office on or before Friday, December 26, 1879.

A youth named James Karrigan, charged with striking Edward Leuthy, of No. 502 West Thirtyninth street, on the 18th inst., on the face because the latter refused to join in a strike in which his

the latter refused to join in a strike in which his companions were engaged in their place of business, pleaded guilty yesterday, and Judge Gildersleeve sent him to the City Prison for one month.

Charles Wakefield and James Lynch, charged with violating the Excise law, pleaded guilty in the Court of General Sessions yesterlay. The latter was fined \$150 and the former \$25. The fines were paid and Judge Gildersleeve administered a wholesome warning against a repetition of the offence.

Robert May, the butter of Mrs. Catherine M. Jones, of No. 707 Fifth avenue, who forged her name to a check and then ran away to Washington, where he was afterward captured and brought to this city, pleaded guilty yesterday in the Court of General Sessions, and Judge Gildersleeve sent him to State Prison for five years.

Martin Daly and James Taylor, who committed two burglaries, one at No. 334 Water street, where the thieves carried off a showcase, a stove and other articles, and the other at the promises of Ann Gibson, No. 69 James street, from which wearing apparel valued at \$22 was stolen, were arraigned in the Court of General Sessions yesterday. Daly admitted his guilt and was sent to the State Prison for three years. Taylor was remanded for trial.

SUPPEME COURT—CHAMBERS—THIS DAY.

SUPPEME COURT—CHAMBERS—Held by Judge Van Vorst.—Court opens at half-past ten A. M. Calendar called at eleven A. M.—Nos. 262, 6, 48, 62, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 135, 141, 142, 143, 222, 226, 226, 251, 254, 257, 260, 269, 267, 268, 269.

SUPPEME COURT—GENERAL TERM.—Adjourned until December 30.

SUPPEME COURT—CHROUT—Part 1—Held by Judge Van Brunt.—Court opens at half-past ten A. M. No day calendar. Parts 2 and 3.—Adjourned for the term.

dic.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM—Held by Judge
Speir.—Court opens at ten A. M. No day calendar.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM—Parts 1 and 3.—
Adjourned for the term. Part 2.—No calendar.

COMMON PLEAS—GENERAL TERM.—Adjourned until
the first Monday of January.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM.—Held by Judge Van
HOESEN.—Calendar called at eleven A. M.—Nos. 5, 9.

COMMON PLEAS—EQUITY TERM.—Adjourned until
December 29.

COMMON PLEAS-TRIAL TERM-Parts 1 and 2 .- Adjourned for the term.

MARINE COURT—THIAL TERM—Parts 1, 2 and 3.—
Adjourned for the term.
Sunnogare's Court—Held by Surrogate Calvin.—
Contested will of Patrick Dickie, deceased, at eleven

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS—Parts 1 and 2.—Adjourned for the term.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN ADMIRALTY—Held by Judge Choate.,—Nos. 210, A. D. Sideracudi vs. G. Mapes; 114, J. Collins vs. J. Scully et al.; 54, C. Grum vs. W. T. Frost et al.; 97, J. G. Unnevehr vs. Steamship Hindoo; 194, D. W. Mannaring vs. Bark C. Delap; 150, W. A. Pascal vs. Schooner F. B. Gilkoy; 151, J. Croesan vs. Steamtng E. A. Packer; 125, J. Duffy vs. B. H. Williams; 105, J. Farwell vs. Steamboat J. H. Starin; 115, G. A. Thorndike vs. Same; 73, W. A. Duell vs. Steamboat Niagara; 101, G. Matoll vs. Steamship Croscent City; 160, J. Casey vs. Erig Nile; 161, W. Andus vs. Steamboat Saratoga; 117, B. Kane vs. Penny et al; 129, P. J. Willis et al. vs. Steamship City of Austin; 135, Middlesex Quarry Company vs. Schooner A. Mason; 111, R. H. Powell et al. vs. Steamboat Willie; 155, M. White vs. Steamship City of Austin; 135, Middlesex Quarry Company vs. Schooner A. Mason; 114, R. H. Powell et al. vs. Steamboat Willie; 155, M. White vs. Steamship Ostrello; 121, P. J. O'Rourke vs. 220 Tons of Coal; 233, D. Berger vs. Steaming Joseph Stickney; 139, H. J. Newton vs. Schooner Paugusset; 152, J. H. Moore et al. vs. Schooner Paugusset; 152, J. H. Moore et al. vs. Schooner Yankee Doodle; 144, J. Smith vs. 60,000 Feet of Lumber; 228, E. R. Lewe vs. Canalboat C. M. Titus.

REAL ESTATE.

The following are the sales made vesterday on the

Merchants' Exchange:—

BY W. O. HOFFMAN.

Foreclosure sale of the five story brick building, with lot 28x30.3x32.11xx3, No. 338 Pearl st., e. a. running through to (No. 4) New Bowery, and 10 ft. n. of the junction of New Bowery and Poarl st., to J. J. Clanev.

Also the three stery brick dwellings and four story brick tenement house, with lot 23x115x75x25x.50x10, No. 9 Markot st., a. w. corner of (No. 65, 67 and 69) East Broadway (No. 9 Market st. to Thomas Shiels for \$20,200, No. 65 East Broadway to J. J. Claney for \$20,200, No. 65 East Broadway to J. J. Claney for \$20,200, No. 65 East Broadway with J. J. Claney for \$20,200, No. 65 East Broadway to J. J. Claney for \$20,200, No. 65 East Broadway for J. J. Claney for \$20,200, No. 67 East 83d st., n. a., 205 ft. e. of Madison av., to C. B. Curtis.

Poreclosure sale of with lot 18 Xx100.11, on East 116th st., a., 389 ft. w. of av. A. to plaintiff the st. a., 389 ft. w. of av. A. to

OFFICIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. The following is a statement showing the real estate transactions recorded in the Register's office December 23 1879:-

Decomber 29, 16:19:—

Lexington.av., n. w. corner of 121st st., 80x100.11;
Marion L. Van Dyck and husband to Orville B.

Ackerly.

Nom.

Elianbeth st. (No. 298); B. O. Chetwood (toferee) to
Catharine L. Sponcor.

Solth st., n. s., 672.5 ft. w. of 5th av., 19:4x100.5;
Louis Strauss to Nathan Strauss.

Solth st. (No. 315 East); Frederick Miller, Jr., to
Lona Sofsky.

Silth st., n. s., 195 ft. w. of av. B, 25x103.3; John L.

Brower and another (executors, &c.) to Arthur J.

McOuntle McQuade... 104th st., s. s., 116.8 ft. w. of 3d av., 50x100.11; the Hobrew Bonevolent and Orphan Asylum Society | Otth st. a. a. 116.8 ft. w. of 3d av., 50x100.11; the Hobrew Bonevolent and Orphan Asylum Society to Myer Dittonhoctor... | 22,500 mt. a. a. 80 ft. w. of 2d av., 20x72.6; T. F. Wicks (refereo) John B. d. a. a. 20x72.6; T. F. Wicks (refereo) John B. d. a. a. 80 ft. w. of 2d av., 16.310.09; F. B. 100 ft. a. of 2d av., 16.310.09; F. B. 100 ft. a. of 2d av., 16.310.09; F. B. 100 ft. a. of 31st at., 28k_x100; J. a. of 30,000 ft. a. of 30,000 ft. a. a. a. of 31st at., 28k_x100; J. a. of 30,000 ft. a. a. a. of 31st at., 28k_x100; J. a. of 30,000 ft. a. of 30,000 ft. a. a. of 30,000 ft. a. of 30,000 ft. a. a. of 31st at., 28k_x100; J. a. of 31st at., 30,100; J. a. of 31

method of choosing Presidential electors.

Senator Pierce, of Kings, said that he had been so occupied that he had not been able to consider the subject in all its bearings. He thought, however, that saids from the great wrong it would inflict upon the people of the State if the scheme were to adout any measures which would endanger the future hopes or existence of their organization. The discussion was a little premature, he thought, but as the republicans had the power, and if they did change the method of choosing electors they was at present simply a question of policy to decide whether they would use their power to accomplish that end or not.

Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator-elect William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senator, was a town of the property of the United Section of the Company of the William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senato, was a two property of the United Section of the Company of the William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican leader in the Senato, was a two property of the United Section of the Company of the William B. Woodin, of Auburn, the recognized republican was a transportant of the Company of the William B. Woodin, of the Company of the William B. Woodin, of the William B. Woodin, of t

NEARING ITS END.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MAKING THE MOST OF ITS FINAL SESSIONS-RESOLUTIONS RE-GARDING THE PRALL PROJECT, WATER TAXES AND FEMALE PEDESTRIANISM.

The "City Fathers" spent over two hours yester-day afternoon in the discussion of various proposi-tions which have been before them for some time past. One of the first related to the Prall heating project. It has been given out that the Mayor had positively made up his mind to veto the resolution granting this valuable franchise. Its promoters have been actively engaged n preventing such a disposition of the matter, as the Aldermen pledged to its support would not have an opportunity of passing such a resolution over the veto, as the terms of office of many expire on the 5th of January. Alderman Stewart moved that the resolution should be recalled from the Mayor for amendment. After this motion had been carried a messenger was despatched to the Mayor's office for the important document. On its reception from the executive chamber the same Alderman moved to strike out the fourth proposition, which read, "Said company shall give a good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$50,000 for the proper relaying of all pavements disturbed by them in putting down their mains," and substitute in its place the following:

In all cases where the pavements are to be disturbed for the purpose of laying or repairing said pipes a permit therefore shall first be obtained from the Commissioner of Public Works, and the company, before taking out such permit, shall deposit with the Comptreller of the city sum in cash sufficient, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Public Works, to despite the company in repair for one year. The pipps the laid ander such regulations as the Commissioner of Public Works may from time to time establish, and under such part of roadway or sidewalk as he may prescribe on the permit, and if at anytime the Commissioner of Public Works shall direct any changes to be made in the location or arrangement of said pipes for the purpose of the laying, altering or removing city water pipes or sewers, or doing any other public work, such changes shall be made by the company at their own expense under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and in no case shall the city be liable for any right of the purpose of the said pipes. And in laying said pipes the company shall in nowless interfere with any sewers, water pipes or other pipes heretofore laid without the consent of the Commissioner of Public Works and the owners of anid pipes.

This motion was carried, and the resolution will in the sum of \$50,000 for the proper relaying of all

low go back again to the Mayor for approval or re

Last month, it will be recollected, the Aldermer passed a resolution exempting the Reman Catholic Orphan Asylums, of this city, from payment of the Croton water tax. This resolution was vetoed by Mayor Cooper on the opinion of the Corporation Counsel that the Aldermen had no authority to pass any such resolution; in fact, that the laws of the State strictly forbid exemptions of that character. A special committee of the Board of Aldermen, con sisting of Messrs. Roberts, Houghton, Burns,

In examining the subject so referred your committee have confined themselves almost entirely to an investigation of the laws relating to the case. The propriety of the measure, your committee believe, will be conceded on all hands. So meritorious is the application of the Soard of Managers, and so great the claims of these asylums upon the city, that it will be reparted as but a fitting recognition of both of camination of the same and the company of the committee of the commit

New York and the cost of the work itself the report goes on to state:—

Up to this time (1873) the small amount of water tax charged to "the more humble classes," and the morely nominal amount charged to the various charitable and other institutions, worked no hardship to either, and their taxes were paid premptly and without murmaring. Even, then, however, some availed themselves of the power vested in the Common Council to escape payment of the small sum then charged as tax for water, notably the "Cooper Union," which, by resolution approved by Mayor Tiemann, May 23, 1858—fourtoen years after the Cormon Council—had taxes then due remitted, and the building exempted for all time from payment of any further water tax. If the counsel's opinion is good law, then the Cooper Union is indebted to the Corporation for a good round sum for taxes for Croton water, and steps should be taken to collect what is now due, and to impose rates in the future, for the benefit of the "Sinking Fund." The buildings of many other institutions have had like exemptions or remissions of tax before and since that time—among them the Church of St. Lawrence, in 1883; the Yorkville Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1869; St. Peter's Church, in 1870, and others.

by the Counsel, does not apply to the case under consideration.

The revenue from the sale of water in the year 1882 was \$83,936 \$82; the revenue from the same source in 1878 was \$1,006,509 29. The exemption of the orphan asylums from water tax will not diminish this amount of revenue. After deducting the amount of the exemption the remaining revenue will be nearly double the whole amount received in 1882. The law of 1862, even if not repealed by the law of 1873, would not therefore be applicable to the case.

The whole cost of the water system of this city to January 1, 1879, including construction, maintenance and repairs, is \$55,820,821 \$46; the entire income from the sale of Croton water to the same date is \$22,001,535 73; so that the income has amounted to safficient to pay the original cost of the Aqueeduct and its appurtenances twice or the same last than \$42,000,000 of the entire incomes to the heart and the same one of thanks for some favor done. Miss Gilbert produced in the paying the same of the same

so that the income has amounted to sufficient to pay the original cost of the Aqueduct and its appurtenances twice over, and within a sum less than \$4,000,000 of the entire cost of the introduction and distribution of the water, including the high service works, the acquisition of lands and water and the erection of storage reservoirs in Putnam and Westchester counties. The present income from the sale of water should be graded to an amount sufficient to pay the interest on the latter sum annually, and the water rates should be reduced to that amount, it was never intended that the present should pay the entire cost of a work that is designed for, and will be used and enjoyed by, future generations, nor was it ever intended that the city should derive an income from the sale of water beyond a sum necessary to pay the interest annually accruing on the bonds issued for the construction of the water works outstanding each year.

The report concludes as follows:—
Your committee unhestitatingly assert that the power to

The report concludes as follows:—
Your committee unhewitatingly assert that the power to exempt any particular property from taxation for the use of water is, in their opinion, still vested in the Common Conneil. They feel that it is, possibly, presumptuous in them to hold this opinion in opposition to the expressed opinion of the law officer of the fetty. Nevertheless, they believe they are acting in the interest of the people when they recommend that the question be satisfied definitely. They do not think the opinion of the counsel is conclusive; and in order that the counsel is conclusive; and in order that the counsel is conclusive; and in order that the country that the programmend that the resolution be adopted not the programmend that the resolution be adopted not withstanding the objections of His Honor the Mayor. This will enable the managers of the asylums to test judicially the locality of the grant, and they have assured your committee they will resort to the courts, if necessary to do so, in order that they may be veloved from the payment of the large sum they are annually compelled to pay to the city for the use of the Croton water under the rates estab lished by the Commissioner of Public Works.

The resolution was then passed over the Mayor's

city for the use of the Croton water under the rates established by the Commissioner of Pablic Works.

The resolution was then passed over the Mayor's veto by the following vote:—Yeas—Messrs. Burns, Carroll, Cavanagh, Foster, George Hall, Robert Hall, Haughton, Hyatt, Keenan, Kinney, Kiernan, Boberts, Sauer, Sheils, Slevin, Steinart and Strack. Nays—Messrs. Morris, Finck, Jacobus and Perley.

PEMALE PEDESTRIANEM.

On motion of Alderman Morris the following was passed by unanimous vote:—

Whereas public exhibitions of female pedestrians are offensive to the sense of propriety and decency, demoralising in their inducence in the community and cruel and inhuman to the participants, without affording any redseming feature in their favor.

Resolved, That the Counsel to the Corporation be and he heroby is respectfully requested to draft an act for the suppression and prevention of such exhibitions and for the punishment of all persons who engage therein or promote the same, and to present the same to the Legislature with a suitable memorial in behalf of the Common Council in favor of the passage-thereof.

Alderman Morris still continues to agitate the question as to the use of the parks by the elevated railroad companies. At his suggestion the following was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks be and they are hereby directed to fur-

Roselved, That the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks be and they are hereby directed to furnish to the Board of Aldermen, as soon as possible, a copy of all its proceedings had or taken by said department in relation to the use of a pertion of the Battery Park by any of the elevated railroad companies, together with a copy of any and every lease, agrooment, or contract entered into between the said Park Department for tiself or on behalf of the corporation of the city of New York, with any or either or all of said railroad companies. Alderman Morris presented the following letter which he had received from Police Commissioner

Hon. John J. Morris:

Dear Sir.—I am informed there is some prospect that Mayor tooper may at last consent to send to the Board of Alcermen the name of some gonuleman as Police Commissioner who will in fact represent the republican party of the city of New York. I am also informed that some of my very good friends have expressed an unwillingness to consent to putting any one in my place. I take the liberty of requesting you to inform the Board of Aldermen and all friends of mine who may take an interest in the Board's action of my views and wishes upon the subject. You know that my term of office expired in May, 1878. I originally accepted the office with reluctance and since its expiration I have continued in the position at great personal sacrifice, solely because it has been at no time possible to secure a successor whose appointment would not jeopardize the interest of the republican party. I made my arrangements last spring to go into business, and consented, much against my wishes, to remain in office until after the late election, because of the evident desire to use the Police Board for political ends, to the detriment of our party.

The election is over and I feel that I ought not to be asked to make any further sacrifice. My wish is that my successor shall be nominated and confirmed without delay. While I do not wish to do anything to the detriment of my political friends my personal business arrangements are such that I most earnestly dearre this course. Very respectfully yours.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

arvey H. Woods, whose term has expired. From Joseph Diamond and Thomas Maher, two of the trustees of the Twentieth ward, a long letter was received, in which they object to the censure pas

received, in which they object to the censure passed upon the trustees of that ward by the committee who investigated the charges preferred against Messrs. Shaler, Lordly and Tietjen by Nelson J. Waterbury. These gentlemen declare that they had no part in the preparation of the letter sent to the Board by Dr. Lordly and his associates of the majority, and should have been excepted in the censure referred to.

The Committee on Bylaws reported in favor of adding another year to the Normal College course. The resolution they recommended is, "on and after the lat day of September, 1880, a fourth year shall be added to the present course of three years in said college, to be optional for two years after said date, and thereafter obligatory." The report and resolution were adopted, only one negative vote being recorded.

ABANDONED CRIMINALS.

MISS LENA GILBERT IN NEED OF FUNDS TO CONTINUE HER PRISON WORK-A GLIMPSE OF

Miss Lens Gilbert, so long interested in the reformation of criminals and ex-criminals, states that scarcely a day passes now without bringing to this city, from all parts of the world, a number of ex-convicts looking for help. These people apply in great numbers at the headquarters of the Gilbert and Prisoners' Aid Society, No. 428 Broadway, but there are no funds in the treasury of that institution, and as the work to be done is unpopular the society must soon discontinue its labors unless some philanthropic citizens come to the rescue. A HERALD reporter yesterday called on Miss Gilbert to get from her some information relative to the workings of the

"What is it you propose to do, Miss Gilbert," asked the reporter, "supposing that you already had the funds your society asks for from the pub-

movement to prevent crime and improve the condi-tion of the prisons and the prisoners." "How do you propose to do that?"

"That is a very broad question. We must progress as we can, and we find it very difficult to make en a little progress. Our work is not popular,

even a little progress. Our work is not popular, and has never been so. It requires time and money to put the work where it belongs. But we can bend our energies in one direction which shall appeal to every humane man and woman, and that is the helping of the unfortunate convict immediately on his being discharged from prison. It is for help in this direction that we now appeal.

HERETYELT GRATITUDE.

"You would be astonished to know how grateful these men are for the slightest favors done them. I have letters from the sons of some of the first families in our country who have been unfortunate enough to get into prison. Among these correspondents are merchants, ex-Congressmen, doctors, lawyers, editors and clergymen—three of the latter being sentenced for bigamy. Of the lower class of criminals we have letters from sneak thieves, panel thieves, pickpockets, burglars, conddence men, forgers, gamblers and detectives."

Miss Gilbert here produced a large portfolio which must have contained a thousand letters. Among the first of these communications drawn out was one from "Handy Andy," who never soils his own hands with the "jimmy," but it is said that several gangs of thieves who work under his orders, "Handy Andy" is now seventy-two years of age. In his last letter to Miss Gilbert here became poetical, and concluded as follows:—

Oh! thou silly creature,
Striving still for others' gain,
While thine every feature
Shows thine inward pain,
Peacet No peace expect to find
While you labor for mankind,
Such as I.

Such as I.

"Here is another," said Miss Gilbert, "from a forger who became reformed and is now a clergy-man in San Francisco. He says:—"

Your generous gift enabled me to procure a comfortable carriage in which I travelled many thousand miles in organizing Sunday schools, scattering the word of God and preaching the unearchable riches of Jesus Christ.

"Here," said Miss Gilbert, "is a letter from one of the clergymen who served a term for bigamy:—"

"Here is something from a pickpocket and b ar," continued Miss Gilbert:—

Isr," continued Miss Gilbert:—
Two years ago the thought of the blessed Saviour came to me Sunday afternoon, in my cell in State Prison. I will never forget that day. I am a professional thief. All I wish to see you for is to have a talk about the way to reform. I have money and dress well, &c., but I have a strong desire to give up my svil ways and serve the dear Lord, who died to save sinners.

"This," said Miss Gilbert, handing the reporter a pencil scrawled sheet of letter paper, "is a letter from one of the 'Blindfolded Band,' who is now in State Prison:—"

eans no longer allow her to respond to t demand on her financial resources, that her means no longer allow her to res the constant demand on her financial re limited as they have become since the di-the Chicago fire.

MOUNTED POLICE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23, 1879. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

A project is now in contemplation by the Board of Police Commissioners which, if carried out, will deprive our property owners, taxpayers and citizens generally of one of the greatest safeguards ever enjoyed by a great metropolis. It has been proposed by our new Commissioner to effectually withdraw the mounted squad now located in Eighty-seventh street, pear First avenue, and assign each member a post beyond the bridge only. The folly of this step is plainly visible when we take the following facts into consideration:—First, our most prominent drives are all this side of the bridge and many of our best teams become unmanageable and are daily brought under control by the skilled horsemen of the mounted squad. Second, there are to be seen on the road a great many reckless drivers who, while under the influence of drink, whip their horses to a breakneck speed, and while in this state they have no power over the reins, thus endangering the lives of rightened iadies and screaming children. While driving in this wild and wayward manner they are quickly overtaken by an officer mounted on a fleet charger, and conveyed to the station house to pay the penalty of their indiscretion. Third, when the paving of Fifth avenue has been completed above Fifty-ninth street that thoroughfare will be a perfect racecourse and the services of those useful men will be needed then more than ever. I have given in this outline only a faint idea of the necessity of these skilled uniformed horsemen on these extensively patronized and popular drives below the bridge. The better to enable the public to see the qualities of these men as savers of life a few cases out of the many in which they figure may be given. Mr. Andrews' (of the Everett House) horses ran away, leaving Central Park at Fitty-minth street, and were successfully stopped by Roundsman Gannon. The team ran at a tremendous speed, and Mr. Andrews escaped with slight injury and was taken to the house of C. Godfrey Gunther and attended to by that gentleman and ex-Mayor Wickham. Dr. McDonald, of Lexington avenue, was similarly saved, as well as Dr. N. H. Mott. Officer Pritchell, while stopping a runsway on the 7th hist., was himself thrown from his horse, the latter having its shoulder frightfully lacerated. As these are only a few of the many accidents which have happened below the bridge, what protection have our hundreds of citizens to hope for while seeking to enjoy the pleasure of an invigorating drive if their present pr is plainly visible when we take the following facts into consideration:-First, our most prominent

THE FARMERS' CLUB.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Club yesterday Professor William Wetherbee, M. D., read a paper on the "Effects of Snow on Vegetation," which was listened to with much interest. Dr. Richards addressed the club on the subject of pleuro-pneumonia. specially second the office with reluctance and since its expiration I have continued in the position at great personal sacrifice, solely because it has been at no time possible to secure a successor whose appointment would not jeopardisc the interest of the republican party. I made my arrangements inst spring to go into business, and consented, much against my wishes, to tremain in office until after the late election, because of the evident desire to use the Police Board for political ends, to the detriment of our party.

The election is over and I feel that I ought not to be asked to make any further sacrifice. My wish is that my successor shall be nominated and confirmed without delay. While I do not wish to do anything to the detriment of my political friends my porsonal business arrangements are such that I most earnestly desire this course. Very respectfully yours.

This communication was piaced on file. The Board will most again on Friday.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

At yesterday's meeting of the School Commissioners a letter from the Mayor was read, in which he notified the Board that he had appointed Joseph Wingler inspector of the Fourth district, vice

NO THOROUGHFARE

WHY MUST PEDESTRIANS LEAVE THE SIDEWALKS TO SUIT THE CONVENIENCE OF BUILDERS ?-AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION THAT FAILS TO IMPROVE MATTERS.

Surely the Jeffersonian spirit of independence has ceased to exist in New York city. When our peo has ceased to exist in New York city. When our peo-ple in the street receive a shower of dust from a passing cart they may growl a little at the driver, but afterward shrug their shoulders and say, "We are used to it." When they reach a crosswalk covered with refuse and dirt they seem to regard it as a matter of course, and think they have no right to expect anything different. When they find the sidewalk fenced off in front of some new building, or perhaps heaped up with sand or boards or mortar. or perhaps heaped up with sand or boards or mortar they submissively roll up their pantaloons or life over the obstructions or pass around them via the cobble stones. No one thinks of making a complaintabout these nuisances, unless it be to a sym-pathizing neighbor and in the strictest confidence. Is the burden of such needless annoyances rendered any the less by patient endurance, or are the people of New York tired of complaining? Certainly it is very difficult to find a responsible officer in this free and glorious metropolis, as a reporter of the Herald found out by experience. He was told to discover the man or bureau or department that was responsi-ble for blockading the sidewalks in front of new buildings, and after the fullest research, and listening to any quantity of "official utterances," he does not quite see now how anybody is to blame nor how the public can help itself.

WHAT WE ENDURE.

It would seem as though the sidewalks were intended to walk on and not for the exclusive benefit of the property on which they front. Yet there are scores of blocks in the city where the reverse is maintained by practice and where hundreds of po-destrians must daily pilot themselves over blocks of stone and around beds of mortar so that a handful of builders may not be disturbed in their individual pursuits. In the upper wards are whole blocks of new buildings, where the sidewalks have been appropriated and no provision whatever made for public travel. Such a thing in Paris or made for public travel. Such a thing in Paris or London would almost provoke a mob. In the former city builders are compelled to do all their work inside their lots and not upon the public thoroughfare. There, too, they must run a fence up in advance of their walls, so that not a speck of dirt shall fall upon the passers by. In London the regulations are less exacting, but sufficient to protect her citizens from imposition. At least a part of the sidewalk is reserved for their use, no matter how large the structure nor how broad the street. A gentleman who saw the Grand Opera House in course of erection in Paris told the reporter that it was so fenced about that is looked like a giant pen of framework from without, and no observer would have thought so great a work was going on within. Yet in New York the builder of a three story tenement must have the entire sidewalk and half the street to himself. The reporter was informed by a builder that the Department of Public Works gave permits for the use of half the street where large buildings were being constructed, and in search of further particulars he called on Commissioner Campbell. The reporter stated his case and asked if it was true that that department granted such permits.

NOT OUR FALLT.

"Not true at all, sir," answered the Commissioner, promptly. "We don't issue any permits of the sort."

"And never have?"

promptly. "We don't issue any permits of the sort."

"And never have?"

"No, sir."

"Then the builders permit themselves?'

"Where?"

"All over the city."

"I have not heard of it."

"There are buildings going up in Harlem where passageway is impossible except in the street or on the opposite sidewalk," added the reporter.

"Then the police do not perform their duty."

"Are they responsible?"

"Yes, for the execution of our orders."

"What are your orders?"

"We only allow the builders the use of ten feet of the street. Formerly they were allowed twelve feet, but latterly we have fixed it positively at ten."

"And the sidewalks?"

"No portion of the sidewalk. If they are digging beneath it we require them to build a bridge over it for foot passengers.

"In case they are not excavating you do not grant."

beneath it we require them to build a bridge over is for foot passengers.

"In case they are not excavating you do not grant them the use of the sidewalk at all?"

"No. Of course there are occasions when they are obliged to use the sidewalk for a while—for instance, when they are carrying in an iron column or a heavy stoke. At such times they are expected to put a railing across the walk for the safety of the public."

to put a railing across the walk for the safety of the public."

"Have you given such orders as you mention to the police?"

"We sent them to Superintendent Walling."

"But you don't know if the patrolmen are sware of the regulations?"

HOW IT STANDS.

"No. I suppose Superintendent Walling attends to his duty. We have only two inspectors to be used for such work, and they can't patrol the whole city. We have to rely upon the police to report violations to us, and then the Bureau of Encumbrances will correct them. I wish that you or any other citizen would report all annoyances of the kind you have described. That is the only means we have of remedying matters, and if citizens won't do that they will have to suffer, so far as I can see."

"But citizens think the Bureau of Encumbrances is organized for the special purpose of keeping the streets clear?"

"So it is," answered the Commissioner, "but two inspectors, as I said before, are not equal to the

"So it is," answered the Commissioner, "but two inspectors, as I said before, are not equal to the task of finding out all the violations on Manhattan Island. We correct them whenever we find them. Now, I was coming down Broadway the other morning when I found a lot of material scattered over the sidewalk in front of a building on the corner of Eighth street. The only passageway for pedestrians was by a narrow plank or two."

"It had been so for two weeks," interposed the reporter.

"It had been so for two weeks," interposed the reporter.

"Well, I stopped it as soon as I saw it. I told the builder he had no right to use the sidewalk for a stone yard and he improved matters right away."

"Does your department possess the right to grant the use of the street whenever you see fit?"

"No, but we have discretionary power. The Board of Aldermen are charged with the protection of the public highways under the charter, but they delegate that duty to this department."

"ONTRARY TO CUSTOM.

"Why cannot buildings be put up in New York on the Parisian system?"

"I have never been in Paris."

"They do their work, mix their mortar and so on, inside the lot."

"Oh, well, the manner of building is different in New York." Now York."
"Different in what way?"
"Why, from time immemorial our builders have
been in the habit of using some of the street.
They have always had their morter beds outside the

been in the labit of using some of the street. They have always had their mortar beds outside the curb."

"But could they not have them in the cellars of their buildings just as well?"

"Not as economically. Then, my dear sir, you must make some allowance for custom. New York is a different city from Paris. They have their mode of building and we have ours. I can't see but what New York has got along very well in her own way. Custom is a very important consideration. For instance, I sometimes flud merchants blocking up the streets with goods, and when I suggest to them that they ought to put the boxes inside their stores they say it takes up too much of their room. Now there it is. They don't want to take up their own room, but they will monopolize the public room on the street. They have always been secustomed to doing so."

There is an eld saying that custom cannot sanction an abuse, but the reporter did not recur to it and the interview ended. If the commissioner of Public Works is not aware of the abuse of builders', privileges all over the island then the public are wiser and sadder than he.

SHIPPING INTERESTS. The Committee on Pilotage Abuses, appointed by

the Maritime Association, met yesterday at No. 113 Pearl street, with Mr. William E. Barnes in the chair. Messrs. Miller, Ward and Dagget, the committee appointed to secure proper counsel for the purpose of framing a new pilotage act for presents tion to the Legislature and to represent the shipping interests of this port at Albany and Washington, in their war against the present pilotage system, re-ported that counsel should be engaged. They were instructed to employ Mr. W. W. Goodrich, if they deemed it advisable to do so. The secretary re-ported that 10,000 pamphlets, reciting the grievances

deemed it advisable to do so. The secretary reported that 10,000 pamphleta, reciting the grievances of merchants and shipowners and their unsuccessful efforts to obtain a proper reduction in pilotage charges, were ready for distribution and would be sent at once to the different maritime cities of the United States. He stated that he had forwarded circulars to forty shipping firms in different seaboard cities, asking their co-operation in obtaining necessary reforms. The committee adjourned until Tuesday next.

The Board of Pilot Commissioners met yesterday and sidjourned the hearing of the complaints made against the pilots of the steam pilot boat Hercules for one week. The fine of \$10, imposed on the ship Nevada for dumping sand into the East liver, was remitted, the captain of the vessel having given a proper explanation of the matter. A complaint was received on December 19 that a canal boat laden with slack line was lying sunk across the slip at the foot of Van Dyke street, Brooklyn, preventing the further use of that bulkhoad, and the Board was requested to have the same removed. Inspector Conway, who had examined into the condition of the sunken boat, reported that he had learned from a reliable source that the complainant was the owner of the cargo, and that he placed her in the position where she now lies, knowing at the time that there was not sufficient water to float her at low tide. After grounding, the inspector says, she commenced leaking, and this caused her present condition.